December
1989

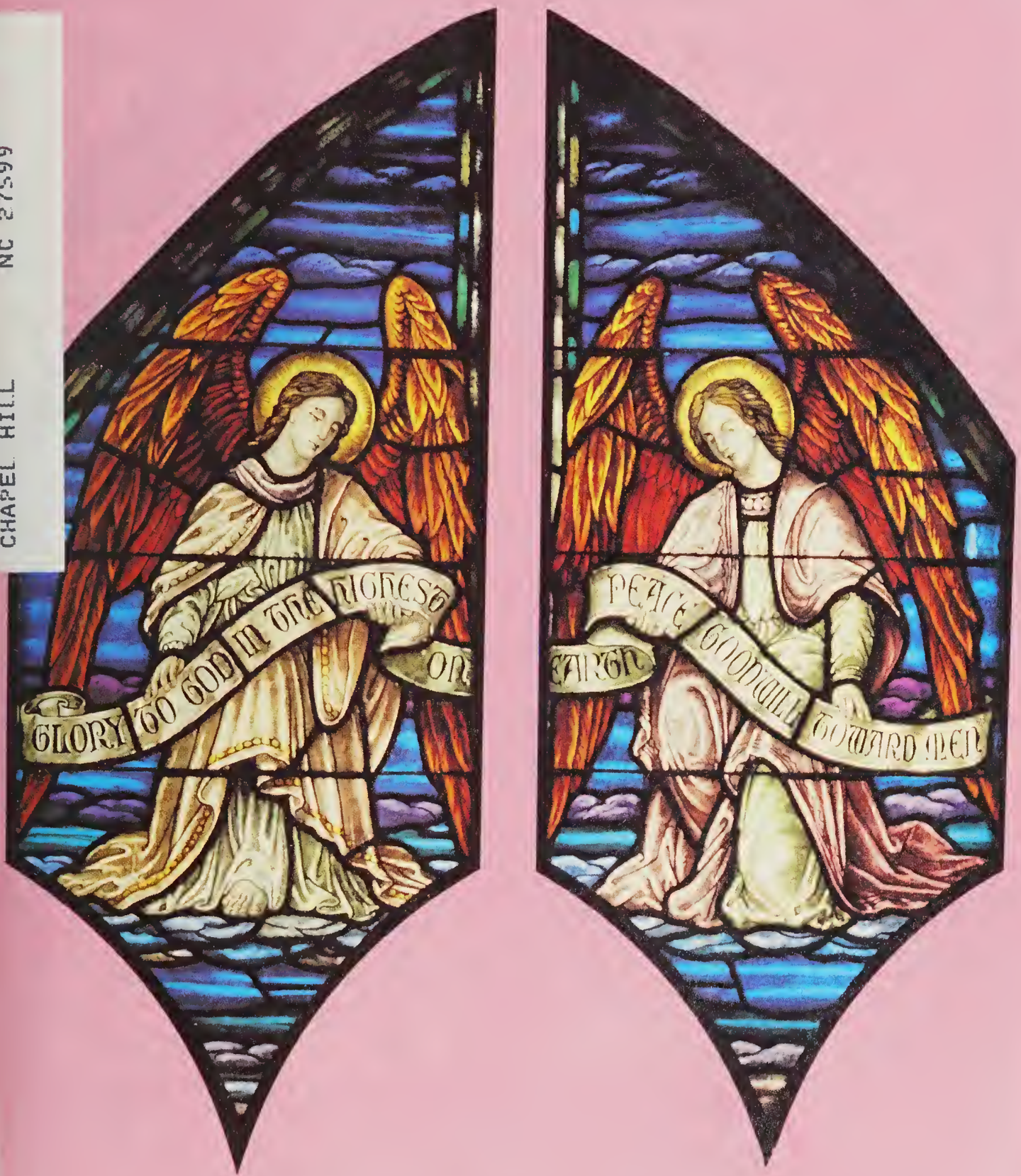
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Christmas Eve: The "Most Magical Day" Of The Year

See *Page 6*

The Hugo Chronicles
Part 2

See *Pages 11-14*



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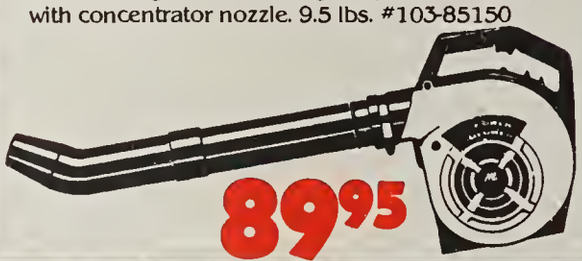
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'auma Of Need' Continues For Hugo's Victims

For most North linians, Hurricane is now a fading ory: faint images news disaster ge, yellowed paper photos of ve damage ght by nightmar- tural forces. ven those Tar amilies who suf- injury or dam- om the huge have, for the part, put the s of that terrify- ptember night d them.



See related stories in "The Hugo Chronicles," pages 11-14.

ut that's not the case for thousands of e in South Carolina, where Hugo's 139- er-hour winds spread devastation along a ath through the state. The toll was stagger- deed, with 24 of the state's 46 counties declared disaster areas. A total of 36 were blamed on the storm and damage tes have reached as high as $5 billion. 50,000 people were left without jobs and housands were left homeless.

Recovery is going to be a long, drawn-out said Al Ballard, executive vice president h Carolina's association of electric coop- s, who is coordinating an assistance pro- ne co-ops established to aid Hugo's in rural areas.

ome 50,000 children cannot attend because their schools have been des- " he said. "This means working parents, hey can return to work, have the problem care. Many thousands of people will not o work because the businesses they for will not be rebuilt."

mediately after the storm hit, the state ded with aid from throughout the money, food, clothing, medicine, etc. relief officials wisely stored some of it ibution later, when the outside aid evitably end.

Meanwhile, as the co-ops struggled to essentially rebuild their entire network of power lines, co-op leaders established an assistance mechanism that could help Hugo's victims after other aid would no longer be available. It is the Electric Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund, which would also focus attention on rural people who're often overlooked in the traditional relief efforts.

"As in every disaster," said Ballard, "financial and other assistance pours in immediately following the event. It then tapers off and sometimes almost disappears. This is when help is sorely needed. And this is when the Electric Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund will reach maximum activity."

The fund will also assure that rural people will get the help they need, he said, adding that all expenditures from the fund are being coordinated with the efforts of the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross and other disaster relief agencies.

"Only those certified as needy receive help."

Since the fund was set up, it has grown steadily, with contributions coming in from across the country—from individuals and businesses, especially electric co-ops and their allied organizaitons. But the "trauma of need" continues for thousands of South Carolinians, Ballard pointed out. "The need for food, medicine, housing and other necessities continues. This is especially true in the case of the elderly disabled."

We can help by offering a holiday season helping hand to these battered neighbors of ours. Make your check payable to Electric Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund and mail it to 808 Knox Abbott Drive, Cayce, SC 29033.

In This Issue:

6



The "Most Magical Day" Of The Year

11

The Hugo Chronicles *Part 2*

18

Lumbee River EMC Lineman Wins Pole-Top Rescue Contest With Record Time

24



Hank's Gardening Guide

28

Horizon

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

Our coverage of Hurricane Hugo's aftermath continues this mon with the second installment of our two-part series, "The Hugo Chron cles." This section, pages 11-14, includes stories describing how the s affected a sampling of co-op consumers and the families of co-op rep men—the fellows who worked long, hard hours to restore electric se along Hugo's path of destruction.

Material for these stories was gathered by members of our staff, assistance from local co-op member relations personnel and from J. A. C. Dunn of Belews Creek in Forsyth County, a free-lance writer. Dunn interviewed consumer-members of Crescent Electric Member Corporation, Statesville.

This section also includes a brief story about a fund-raising prog of the South Carolina electric co-ops to aid victims of the hurricane i rural areas of that state.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

We mark the season with a bit of Christmas nostalgia from Caro sent Hayman of Beaufort, a free-lancer who has contributed holiday rial to our pages several times in recent years.

Mrs. Hayman is a Beaufort native who returned to her family ho there several years ago. She had made her home for a number of yea Cape Carteret, where she was served by Carteret-Craven Electric M bership Corporation, Morehead City.

A poet and teacher, she was named Beaufort's poet laureate by Tom Potter in October to coincide with a Poetry Week observance.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

We need to set the record straight on a couple of errors that appeared in our November issue:

- A photo of two repairmen with Blue Ridge Electric Member Corporation, Lenoir, restoring service in the wake of Hurricane Hug ran with a caption that incorrectly identified one of those men as G Huffman. He was Dale McNeill, a Lineman A with Blue Ridge EMC. apologies to Mr. McNeill.
- An incorrect telephone number appeared in the item about ing prints of the cover painting, "Keepsakes" by Ward Nichols. If yo interested in ordering one of the signed-and-numbered prints, writ call Terrie Faircloth, Top Drawer, 209 W. Third St., Winston-Salem, 27101. The correct phone number is: (919) 725-8444.

Best regards,

Owen Bi

Cover: An Image In Stained G

Our cover this month is a detail from the rear window of the of the Good Shepherd in Rocky Mount. The photo was made by pro sional photographer Ray Strawbridge of Bunn.

The image was featured on Christmas cards the church sold i as a fund-raising project.

North Carolina Awards Honor 5

Communications magnate Roy Park as one of five recipients of the 26th nual North Carolina Awards, the highest nor given by the state.

The awards, presented by Gov. Jim rtin, are presented for lifetime achieve- nts in one of four areas: fine arts, ence, literature and public service.

Park, who received his award in pub- service, was joined by fellow recipients: onis McGlohon of Chapel Hill, fine arts; rtrude B. Elion of Chapel Hill, science; nald Bayes of Laurinburg, literature and xine M. Swalin of Chapel Hill, public vice.

A native of Surry County, Park had a cessful career in agricultural marketing ore turning his attention to communi- ions. Now, Park Communications oper- s seven television stations, 19 radio ions and 118 newspapers in 27 states.

Loonis McGlohon, a native of Ayden, written more than 400 musical com- itions and has accompanied such sts as Tony Bennett, Margaret Whiting Eileen Farrell. His work has been per- ned by Frank Sinatra, Woody Herman Rosemary Clooney.

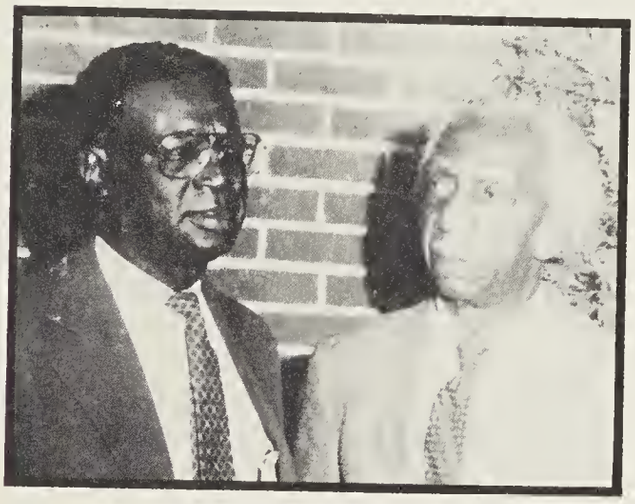
Gertrude B. Elion, a 1988 Nobel Prize ner in science, has won various honors er work in the treatment of leukemia herpes. She is a chemist at Burroughs- lcome and a frequent lecturer on col- campuses.

Ronald Bayes has published more 14 volumes of poetry. He is currently tinguished professor of creative writ- t St. Andrews College in Laurinburg.

Maxine A. Swalin has been a part of N. C. Symphony for 40 years—orga- g musical programs for the state's g people.

For Community Service

Four Tar Heels Saluted



Patterson and Reid



Lovejoy



Teachout

Four North Carolinians have been honored with the 1989 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards, recognizing them for their efforts to improve the quality of life in their communities.

The awards, presented recently in Winston-Salem, went to Karen Lovejoy of Ocracoke Island, for personal service; Willie I. (Tap) Patterson and Dr. Lowery W. Reid of Durham, for community change and Leo J. Teachout of Rocky Point, for advocacy.

Each winner will receive a grant of $25,000—with $20,000 of that going to charities chosen by the award winners.

Karen Lovejoy, a 34-year-old native of New York, has lived in Ocracoke for 10 years, teaching special education at Ocracoke School—the only school on the island.

Knowledgeable in Braille and sign language, Lovejoy has taught the skills to numerous children.

Willie I. (Tap) Patterson, 53, and Dr. Lowery W. Reid, 76, founded Durham's Crest Street Community Council—an ambitious organization that revived a neighborhood and practically moved it to prevent it from being destroyed by highway construction.

Fighting for a series of community improvements, the two men have turned the neighborhood into a showcase—with an old school converted into a home for the elderly and residents now qualifying for financing their own homes.

Leo J. Teachout, 44, executive director of GROW, a Wilmington-based support group for homosexuals, has worked to help spread education about AIDS.

The awards, now in their fourth year, are sponsored by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and are given annually to Tar Heel residents who have worked without fanfare to improve conditions in their communities.

The "Most Magical Day" Of The Yea

When I was a child, the Christmas season always began the day the Sears Roebuck catalog arrived. Mama kept it in a convenient spot near her rocking chair to do her Christmas shopping.

Gifts were chosen with care—size, color, price (a big item!) and did we need it?

My sister and I made lists for Santa. Mine always included books. I still associate the "magic carpet" of Hans Christian Andersen, the Brothers Grimm, Aesop's Fables and Louisa Mae Alcott with my memories of Christmas.

Everything was always ordered, even the Christmas candies, and there was great delight in the weeks that lay ahead as I watched for the packages to arrive. Mama would open them, sorting out the things I must not see 'til Christmas.

One day she'd call me into her bedroom. There on her bed would be an array of gifts for the family to be wrapped, ribboned and tagged. Shirts, socks, ties and monogrammed handkerchiefs for the men; colorful scarfs, sweaters and mittens for the children; boxes of beautiful handkerchiefs and pretty vases for ladies.

I was her helper, and it was a job I was very proud to have. I learned to fold the edges of the paper "just so" and tie a ribbon bow that Mama said was a work of ar also stuck my tongue to the roof of my mouth many times from lickin seals to put on the packages. (No Scotch tape then!)

As the gifts were wrapped, I wrote tags for them and placed the cardboard boxes. These went under Mama's bed or in a special locke closet until the long-awaited day.

Every activity seemed to focus on Christmas. All conversations b "When Christmas comes" or "It's only ?? more days 'til Christmas!"

Our schools and churches put on yearly pageants and special p Everyone in our small town was invited and almost everyone came. S ing a solo or having a speaking part made one an overnight "star". Fo weeks afterwards your grocer or mailman or teacher would stop you some member of your family to say again how much they enjoyed it.

In our small town, as in many others, neighborliness abounded, cially at Christmas. I made many trips to the Post Office to send pack to relatives and to mail Mama's Christmas cards.

Mama enjoyed writing her cards. She included notes about our activities and health. Often a friend or loved one would find a few do tucked inside—money she'd saved from her grocery fund.

Mama had a strong sense of family and the giving spirit of Chris lived in her heart. We children took canned goods to church to be u for Christmas Cheer Baskets for the needy. We delivered these bask red wagon, which we pulled through the streets one evening a week before Christmas. We'd knock on a door and then run to hide. Whe someone would come we'd jump up and call, "Merry Christmas!" La we'd gather at someone's home for hot cocoa and cookies.

Around Dec. 18, Mama moved the living room furniture for a " spot" and Papa brought home the best one he could find—usually a or pine. One Depression year we had a yaupon, which didn't look ri rained its berries onto Mama's rug.

Once Mama cut a small cedar tree that grew in our yard. We p tree in a bucket of damp sand or large container and used bricks to up. Water was added every few days to keep it fresh.



Out came the boxes of old ornamen the garlands and icicles saved from year t Mama put the lights on and we children f decorating. If one light was bad the entir would not light. It could take half an hou the bad bulb and replace it. We held our until the lights went on. There! How bea

The Christmas tree was in the parlo did not get to see it often as that room w heated every day. This made it even mor special.

Mama had been cooking for days— cakes and fudge. On December 23 (the Mama always called Christmas Eve's Eve

se came alive with activity. Everyone had chores. Wood and coal had to rought in, the yard must be raked, the furniture polished, etc. The e lit the kitchen with a genial glow far into the night as one "favorite" after another was completed. Only one day remained before Christ- Our hearts were high.

Christmas Eve was the most magical day of the year. It seemed to me was no wish that could not come true on that day. Of course it flew ood things to eat were lined up on shelves and on Mama's carved oak oard. A huge yellow chocolate-iced cake, fresh coconut and jelly , potato and mincemeat pies and a large cut-glass bowl of ambrosia— hese were only the desserts! The kitchen was scrubbed and cleaned. hed curtains at the sparkling windows. The table was set in the dining for tomorrow's dinner. China, silver and glassware shone on Mama's linen tablecloth.

We did not always have turkey but we always had plenty. Mama fixed l chicken and stuffing, corned ham and candied sweet potatoes, flaky nd gravy with bits of hard boiled egg in it, and large dishes of vegeta- Everyone was tired but no one seemed to mind.

My sister and I got baths and shampoos and laid out clean "Sunday clothes" for Christmas Day and fresh nightgowns for this special night.

Christmas Eve found us gathered in the parlor, where a fire glowed in the wood stove. I had been practicing for days on our "Christmas Program." Relatives and neighbors were invited to come by for carols, poems and the reading of the Christmas Story from the family Bible.

Since the parlor was seldom heated, the piano keys felt like ice under my fingers. Mama lighted the candles, and as the tree lights sparkled, our voices rang out "Silent Night," the room was warm with family love.

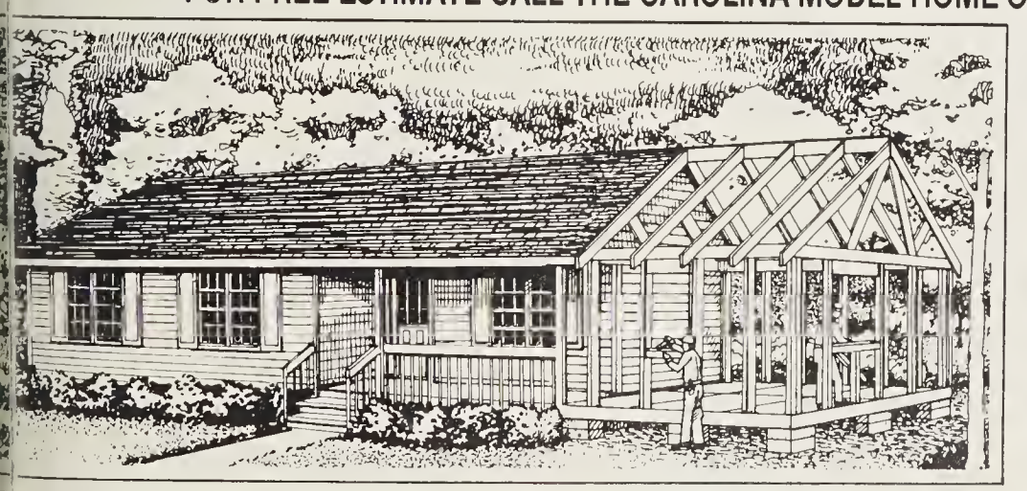
The gifts and the meal next day were grand. But this joyous Christmas Eve gathering was always the high point of the season for me.

—Carol Bessent Hayman

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Three Receive Partner-In-4-H Awards From NCSU

Glenn Petty, manager of the James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex at the State Fairgrounds, was one of three honorees in the 1989 Partner-In-4-H awards program of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

The awards honor individuals and organizations that work closely with the Extension Service in supporting the 4-H program.

Also accepting awards were the N. C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Jan Crenshaw, executive director of the N. C. Egg Association.

ECU Professor's Art In Exhibit

New paintings by Greenville artist Clarence Morgan will be on view at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh through Feb. 4, 1990.

Morgan is an associate professor of art at East Carolina University in Greenville.

A native of Philadelphia, he has studied throughout the world. Since moving to North Carolina about 10 years ago, Morgan has received many honors from around the state.

For more information write or call the museum at 2110 Blue Ridge Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27607. Phone: (919) 833-1935.

Draft Of U. S. Constitution In Exhibit At History Museum

An original draft of the U.S. Constitution will be on display through June 10, 1990, as part of an exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.

The exhibit, "Your Constitution: Private Rights and Public Freedoms," will highlight 200 years of the Constitution's impact on life in the nation. The displayed document is one of 12 existing drafts of the Constitution.

Visitors will also see various documents relating to North Carolina's part in ratifying the Constitution. The exhibit will also explore issues concerning citizens in 1790 and those concerning citizens today.

Other issues highlighted in the exhibit will be prohibition, civil rights, women's suffrage and the Civil War.

For more information, write or call the museum at 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (919) 733-5722.

History Catalog Now Available Free Of Charge

A key to help unlock North Carolina's history is now available in the *1989-90 Catalog of North Carolina Publications.*

The catalog, a directory of every historical publication available from the state's Historical Publications Section, is free.

More than 150 publications are described in the catalog.

To receive a free catalog, write to the Historical Publications Section (N), Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (919) 733-7442.



Winter Carnival Slated For Beech Mountain Resort

"Winterfest '90," a winter carnival, is slated at the Beech Mountain Resort in Beech Mountain, Jan. 5-7, 1990.

The carnival will feature a number of events, including the Cardboard Box Derby and a beauty contest on skis.

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e book can be ased through ail. To order a send a check for 5 to North Caro- entury Farms, ox 16384, l Hill, NC .

State Receives Painting From Blind Artist

The Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh now has a new painting, thanks to former student Charles Wells of Greensboro, who has become an artist.

Wells gave the painting, which depicts dogwoods and a cardinal, to the state, asking that it be displayed at the school.

The 1958 graduate of the school said he donated the painting to inspire students to express their talents.

"I would like for the students who are partially blind to see that they can paint if they want to," he said.

Wells has limited vision, but his life-long problems with cataracts have left him legally blind. However, he can see well enough to walk around his neighborhood in Greensboro.

Wells first became interested in art as a student at the school. A few years ago, he took art lessons at Guilford Technical Community College—specializing in oil and acrylic landscapes. Although he sells some of his work, Wells still considers his painting a hobby.

Museum Seminar To Focus On Conserving Antique Objects



Current methods of conserving antique objects will be discussed in a one-day seminar hosted by the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), Jan. 27, 1990 in Winston-Salem.

"Saving the Past for the Future," will feature a number of top conservators, who will discuss current trends in conservation training and methods. Speakers will discuss works of art on paper, ceramics, textiles, painting, furniture and metal.

Registration fee for the seminar is $25. For more information on the event, write or call the Department of Education, MESDA, P.O. Box 10310, Winston-Salem, NC 27108. Phone: (919) 721-7360.

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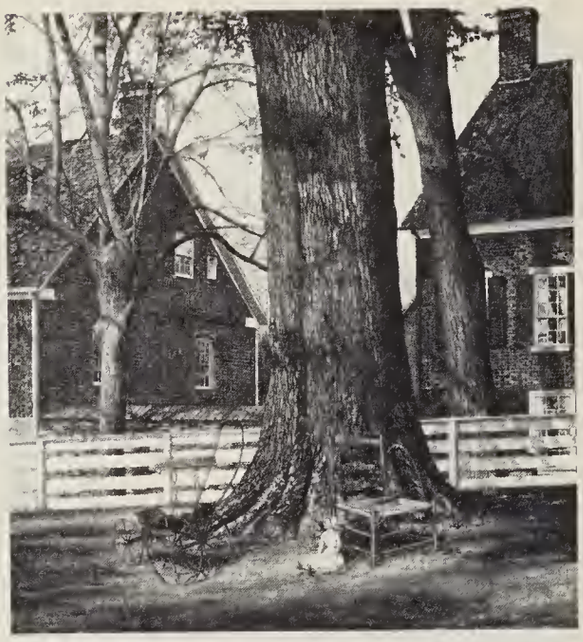
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Old Salem Offers Limited Edition Print

A limited edition print by Tar Heel artist David Doss is being sold to raise funds to cover damages Old Salem suffered in last May's tornadoes.

The print, titled "Salem Remembered," is from an original watercolor painting Doss did especially for Old Salem.

Only 2,000 prints will be sold. Prints can be purchased at Old Salem or by mail for $50. For mail orders, add $2.50 for sales tax and $5 for shipping. Orders should be sent to Old Salem, Inc., Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27108. For more information, call (919) 721-7300.

Wood Honored For Region's Sales Record

Charles T. Wood, manager of Southern States Cooperative's North Carolina Region, has been honored with the co-op's 1989 President's Award, citing him for the region's increased sales during the past year.

The Raleigh-based region had total sales of $828 million, which represented an increase of 10.7 percent over 1988.

Wood was honored at the organization's 66th annual stockholders meeting in Lexington, KY.

The meeting involved members in 12 other locations through a teleconference network. North Carolina sites for the teleconference were in Raleigh, Greenville and Hickory.

Six EMCs Elect 23 Director

A total of 18 incumbents and five newcomers have been elected t the Boards of Directors at six North Carolina Electric Membership Co porations (EMCs) during recent co-op annual meetings:

- **Davidson EMC,** Lexington—Re-elected were Jack J. Myers of Lexington and N. Mack Shoaf of Rt. 5, Winston-Salem. Jeanette Overby Danbury was elected for her first term, filling the spot left vacant by th death of Hassel B. Gann of Rt. 1, Mayodan.

Board officers for the coming year are: Eston S. Stokes of Rt. 2, Li wood, president; Jack J. Myers, vice president; W. Max Walser of Rt. 14 Lexington, secretary and C. Richard Watts of Rt. 1, Walnut Cove, treasurer.

- **Four County EMC,** Burgaw—Re-elected were W. A. Settleme of Rt. 1, Riegelwood; James Hollingsworth of Rt. 1, Willard and Bertic Lanier of Maple Hill. Kenneth J. Jackson of Rt. 1, Bladenboro, was elec for his first term, defeating incumbent H. Linwood Royal of White Oa Royal had served on the board for the past six years.

Board officers for the coming year are: R. W. Blanchard of Rt. 1, Turkey, president; W. A. Settlemeyer, vice president and R. E. Pendergrass of Rt. 1, Harrells, secretary-treasurer.

- **Lumbee River EMC,** Red Springs—Re-elected were J. W. Hu of Rt. 1, Fairmont; Timothy Strickland of Rt. 3, Maxton and James Har of Fayetteville. Madie Rae Locklear of Maxton was elected for his first term, defeating incumbent Gus Bullard of Rt. 2, Maxton. Bullard had served on the board for 12 years.

Board officers for the coming year are: J. W. Hunt, president; Lac Cummings of Rt. 1, Pembroke, vice president; Timothy Strickland, se tary and James Hardin, treasurer.

- **Pitt & Greene EMC,** Farmville—Re-elected were J. J. Grimsle of Rt. 1, Ayden; Mark W. Mozingo of Rt. 2, Farmville and Wilbert Lane Rt. 1, Snow Hill.

Board officers for the coming year are: J. J. Grimsley, president; I ton Webb of Rt. 1, Macclesfield, vice president and Mark W. Mozingo, secretary-treasurer.

- **Rutherford EMC,** Forest City—Re-elected were Fred. D. Mir of Rt. 1, Lawndale; William L. Plonk of Rt. 3, Kings Mountain; H. Frank Queen of Rt. 1, Morganton and Joseph N. Quinn of Rt. 3, Marion. Rob Randall Eury of Lincolnton was elected for his first term, succeeding Robert O. Bynum of Rt. 2, Iron Station, who retired after 16 years on board.

Board officers for the coming year are: Fred D. Mintz, president William L. Plonk, vice president; Paul G. Dalton of Rt. 1, Lake Lure, se tary and David W. McGimsey of Rt. 7, Morganton, treasurer.

- **Tri-County EMC,** Dudley—Re-elected were W. L. Scott of Rt Goldsboro; Leslie J. Bell of Rt. 2, Mt. Olive and Howard A. Hardy of R Kinston. R. Allen Jones of Four Oaks was elected for the first time, su ceeding Frank B. Jordan of Mt. Olive. Jordan stepped down after 22 years on the board.

Board officers for the coming year are: W. L. Scott, president; C W. Kornegay of Albertson, vice president; C. W. Smith of Rt. 2, Seven Springs, secretary and James N. Price of Rt. 5, Mt. Olive, treasurer.

To Cope With Power Outages

ou Just Have To Dig In And Hold On'

In the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, news rts focused heavily on power outages, usu- quoting staggering figures on the number of leels who had no electric service.

Immediately after the huge storm sped ugh North Carolina, estimates had the out- affecting about 000 people over a area from south arlotte to the nia line.

Behind those bers were human es that often went ld, stories of le coping as best can without a modity they've their lifestyles nd.

> *"We were without power a number of days, but I knew Rutherford EMC was doing their best. I don't think anyone else could have done a better job."*
>
> *—Ervin Lineberger, Cherryville*

Whether they were served by an Electric bership Corporation (EMC), a municipal ric system or a private power company, faced common problems: make-shift cook- rangements, thawing frozen food, no , no hot water, no heat. And many had to ome those difficulties while also cleaning tensive damage from Hugo's blasts.

Ervin Lineberger of Cherryville has coped such problems before in operating his fruit egetable farm. This time, he was most wor- bout six chest freezers he'd filled with nd vegetables.

"I was lucky that I had a generator I could provide power to two freezers at a time," ineberger, a consumer-member of Ruther- MC, Forest City.

By rotating service from the generator to ezers, he was able to keep the summer y from thawing.

"We were walking a tightrope the entire

ois Watson gave up all hope of saving her r full of meat after she'd been without for a week. A consumer-member of Blue EMC, Lenoir, she was about to toss the meat to the dogs when her power came back on.

Since she'd wisely kept the freezer closed to keep the cold inside, she was surprised by what she found when she opened the door.

"I was amazed when I opened that freezer and found that my meat was still frozen."

Ice, which had built up around the edges of the unit, fell over the food, keeping it cold.

Small victories like this were cause for celebration during the extended outage, some of which continued as much as two weeks. Many who had to cope with the situation emerged from it with a new appreciation for their neighbors and a new determination to be better prepared for the next power outage.

Ruby Norman, who lives about six miles outside Wilkesboro, woke up early on the morning of Sept. 15, mostly because she always wakes up early to go to work at the Holly Farms cooked foods division in Wilkesboro. Her daughter, who is her next-door neighbor, drives her to work.

"I didn't watch the news the night before," said Mrs. Norman. "I've lived here all my life and I've never been through anything like this. I knew a hurricane was coming, but I didn't think we'd have more than rain from it."

Duke Power Company's service to the Holly Farms plant went out three times soon after she started work, said Mrs. Norman. When it didn't come back on, her shift went home about 9 a.m.



The Hugo Chronicles

Since there are no windows where she works, she was unprepared for what awaited her outside the plant. In addition to the rain she had expected, she and her daughter encountered downed trees, power poles and road signs lying everywhere, debris in the roads, and extremely strong winds. It took them an hour to travel the eight miles to their homes because so many roads were blocked by fallen trees.

> *"We think Crescent Electric is just the greatest. In the winter if we have ice, or in summer if a storm comes through and trees fall on the power lines, we can call them and they'll be here within the hour, sometimes within 20 or 30 minutes. We have a lot of regard for them. I just can't imagine people getting out and working in the conditions they have to sometimes! It's hard to imagine."*
>
> *—Ruby Norman, Wilkesboro*

Ruby Norman's two-story frame house had lost service from Crescent EMC, Statesville, just before she left for work. Her house was undamaged when she returned home, although others nearby were damaged. Trees were down throughout the neighborhood.

"I never did feel like I was in a panic," she said. "After I got home and watched the trees swaying, I guess I was frightened, but it really hadn't occurred to me to be frightened before because I thought we'd just get downpours of rain. But when the wind blew so hard I thought it was going to blow the door open, it was frightening."

Her well pump wasn't working. She drained some water from the pressure tank, and a neighbor had some barrels of water, which he shared.

"I'm not one who thinks they're going to starve to death if they miss a meal, and I'm also a peanut-butter-and-jelly-girl," said Mrs. Norman. "My daughter and her husband have a gas grill, and by Sunday afternoon they had gotten absolutely fabulous at making coffee on that grill—and I mean fresh, perked coffee. Food I can go without, but I *have* to have my coffee!

"We said, if this ever happens again, we're going to be prepared. Of course, we've done very little about that."

For the rest of Friday, Mrs. Norman stayed in her house, hoping a tree wouldn't fall on She busied herself by cleaning out old junk from desk drawers. She worked all day Satu at Holly Farms, where power had been rest And Saturday night she read a book by the l of a kerosene lamp.

"I said to myself, 'Now look, you used t this when you were going to school.' We di have electricity until 1949, and to me, back electricity was the greatest thing in the wo you know, the bare light bulbs, and the littl wire here, the little wire there. I'll never fo when daddy bought our first refrigerator. A time, it was Davie Electric Membership Co tion."

Davie EMC merged with Cornelius EM 1971 to form Crescent EMC.

Mrs. Norman spent Sunday morning b "sacrilegious," as she put it, mowing her la and cleaning up leaves and branches.

She and her neighbors were delighted when the co-op's repair c appeared that afternoon.

"When we saw those guys about three doors down, we all went and aggravated them. We promised them *everything* if they'd get the power back on, and when the power did come back on everybody o street was yelling and hollering. I think the people down the road let firecrackers. It was like a celebration."



From the Hugo experience, Ruby Norman
ed the importance of keeping jugs of water
and, and that "you can't be prepared
gh." It's also "a situation where you just
to dig in and hold on," with the help of
r people, she said.

She was lucky, she says now. Hugo left
people without electricity for much
er than two and a half days.

"We think the co-op is just the greatest,"
aid.

Throughout Hugo's path, people expe-
ed variations on Ruby Norman's theme of
nicked resourcefulness.

Jim Calabrese, a middle school music
er who lives a few miles outside of States-
saw his electricity go off early Friday morn-
nd watched Hugo blow in the screening on
ew back porch. The wind also blew half the
of off his neighbor's house. After the wind
almed, Calabrese spent some time driving
nd, trying to find some place where he
buy kerosene for his kerosene lamps.
ene was hard to find because country
s had no electricity to run their pumps, and
e bottled and scented kerosene was quickly
ut.

Calabrese and his wife ate and bathed at his
er's apartment in Statesville, where power
t go off. Otherwise, they and their neigh-
muddled through"—all of them offering
p the others if they could.

One neighbor suggested that Calabrese dip
buckets of water from their swimming
He didn't need it, because like many peo-
no get water from a well, he keeps jugs of
on hand all the time.

Like everyone else, we more or less just
n and kept hoping and praying nothing
ould happen," he said.

e didn't bother to call Crescent EMC to
his outage, assuming that the co-op
know about it. He had served on Cres-
member awareness committee for three
nd felt confident the co-op would be
ll it could to repair damaged power lines.

labrese said he and his wife survived 54
ess hours with relatively little incon-
ce.

Tar Heel Co-ops Contribute

Disaster Relief Fund Provides Aid To Hugo Victims In South Carolina

The North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) has contributed $1,000 to the Electric Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund, which was set up to aid victims of Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina.

The fund, established by the statewide electric cooperative organization of South Carolina, is designed to aid rural victims who may not be able to obtain assistance elsewhere.

The effort is being coordinated with those of the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross and various state and local agencies.

"We are pleased to help our neighbors in this time of need," said Wayne D. Keller, executive vice president of NCAEC.

"Although North Carolina was damaged by the storm, our experience cannot compare with what happened in South Carolina. Hurricane Hugo is no longer in the headlines, but its toll is still a daily reality for so many families all over South Carolina. As we move into the holiday season, I hope others in North Carolina will remember their suffering neighbors to the south."

Contributions to the South Carolina relief effort are still being accepted by Electric Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund, 808 Knox Abbott Dr., Cayce, SC 29033.

In the Meadowview development outside Statesville, Josephine Damadio and her husband spent several hours after Hugo had passed just driving around, looking for ice. They didn't find any, but when they got home, their electricity had been restored.

That impressed the Damadios, who had moved to Iredell County from New Jersey three years ago. In New Jersey, Mrs. Damadio said, severe ice storms often left them without electricity for as long as a week.

Most families who suffered through the Hugo power outages learned a lot about doing without electricity. And they learned a lot about how to prepare for such emergencies.

Even outdoorsmen like Dale Spencer of Taylorsville want to be ready for the next emergency. He managed well enough in this one, heating his five-month-old baby's formula on a gas camping stove, tapping a community tank for water for his family and joining other men in clearing fallen trees with chainsaws.

But he wants the next outage to be less disruptive on the Spencer household. "Next time, I want to have a generator."

Still, some stalwart souls were undisturbed by the crisis.

"It was no big deal," said Bryant Nantz of Sherrills Ford. "We have kerosene lamps and stoves; we eat out of tin cans; we can go down the river and fish. This 'ol country boy knows how to survive!"

Power Outages Require Sacrifices By The Families Of EMC Linemen



—Maggie Tilley/Blue Ridge EMC

Linda Lowe

If Linda Lowe hears a negative comment about the length of an electric cooperative's power outage, she sometimes takes it personally.

She knows first hand how much time and effort go into restoring electric service.

The Caldwell County resident is married to a co-op employee, who sometimes spends 20-plus hours a day working to restore power in an emergency.

"People don't realize how dangerous and difficult a job it can be," said Lowe, whose husband, Michael, is a line test supervisor for Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Lenoir.

Power outages can be a difficult job for wives who must shift schedules to accommodate extended working hours.

Kathy Putnam of Cherryville, whose husband, Bryan, is a first class lineman at Rutherford EMC, Forest City, says this means the whole family must sacrifice.

"When there is an extended outage, I have to work extra, too," said Putnam, who is an administrator at a Gastonia nursing home. "Sometimes we'll go days without seeing each other."

For Lucy Burgess of Monroe, whose husband, Tommy, is a journeyman lineman at Union EMC, Monroe, Hurricane Hugo meant almost two weeks of seeing her husband for only a few hours each night.

"He usually was gone by 6 a.m. and worked sometimes as late as midnight," she said. "When he came home, he really didn't sleep well because he was so tired."

The situation was the same for Teresa Robinson of Monroe, whose husband, Richard, is also a journeyman lineman at Union EMC.

She was without power for six days and had to cope with two small children.

"You feel pretty alone during those times," she said of the extended periods when her husband works. "You feel like everyone has their husband—and you're by yourself. But you've just got to be strong."

While co-op families may be familiar with such situations, the general public usually isn't. The public got a chance to learn about it when Lowe wrote an article on the subject for the *Lenoir News-Topic*.

During the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, when many co-op members were still without power, Lowe overheard some negative comments about co-op repair efforts while standing in line at a store. She decided to set the record straight through the newspaper article.

"It just agitated me to hear those comments," said Lowe. "One day, I had a chance to go out while Mike was working close to home. I was impressed with the effort it took just to get one house back on-line."

The co-op employees' wives said their husbands feel a sense of obligation to get the electricity flowing again wh there's an outage.

"He really enjoys his work," said Putna think he likes knowing that so many people needing him."

Yet, the burden of having their husban away from home for extended periods is sti tough to bear.

"Usually, I don't worry. I know that he safety first," said Lowe. "However, after a fe days of long hours, his mental sharpness sta dull."

"I'm concerned about his safety," said gess. "I think I get more concerned the lon he has to work those long hours."

Being the wife of an EMC employee, w must work in extreme conditions to get po restored, is just part of a lifestyle these wom and their families must adjust to.

"I know Bryan missed a lot when the dren were smaller—like playing in the sno with them," said Putnam. "It seemed like e time it snowed, he was working."

—Randy Wh

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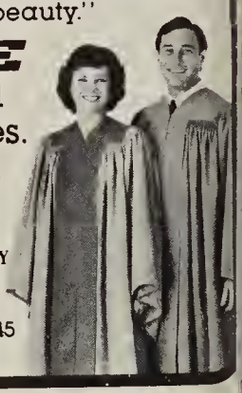
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EMC Official Tells Congress

o-op Program Can Be Model or Rural Revitalization Efforts



g those appearing before the House Agriculture Committee hearing in ite were, from the left, Richard Johnson, president of the board of Pee ectric Membership Corporation, Wadesboro; John Balfour of Lumber , representing the N. C. Cotton Promotion Association; Edwin Hamic of Hill, representing the N. C. Corn Growers Association and Earl Hendrix ford, representing the N. C. Soybean Producers Association.

past president of the Anson County Farm Bureau has called on ers of Congress to use the nation's rural electrification program as a for new programs to revitalize the rural economy.

ichard H. Johnson of Rt. 4, Wadesboro, who is currently president of ard of Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation, Wadesboro, red before a hearing of the U. S. House of Representatives Agricul- ommittee at Wingate College.

The rural electrification program," he said, "is a shining example of n effective partnership between the government and the private can accomplish. Rural electric co-ops are locally owned and oper- nd the government's role is to facilitate their operation through the on of affordable capital and technical assistance."

hnson urged the committee to use this "highly successful partner- rangement" as a model in designing new rural economic develop- nitiatives.

ese new efforts, he said, need to be aimed at diversifying the eco- opportunities in rural areas to provide jobs for "the thousands of people who are forced to leave their communities in search of employment" and for the "small, family farmers who need non-farm income to survive."

Johnson noted that at the end of 1987, about 1.5 million U. S. farms were "netting almost nothing on the farm operation but earning about $23,000 per family per year, mostly from non-farm jobs and salaries."

He said the nation's electric co-ops support diversification of the rural economy because they need new commercial and industrial loads to balance their residential loads, which now account for about two-thirds of their total service. More balanced loads would allow the co-ops to serve all their consumer-members in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

Johnson added: "I would be hopeful that as the committee addresses U. S. farm policy, you will put the interests of the American farmer first. This has a direct impact on the economy of our rural areas. A strong domestic farm economy is the foundation for rural development and rural economic stability."

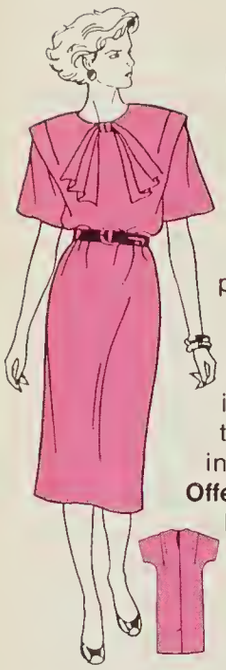
The committee held a series of hearings to gather public comment on issues that need to be addressed in the 1990 farm bill, which will replace a 1985 law.

The hearing was chaired by Rep. Dan Glickman, D-KS, who was standing in for Rep. Kika de la Garza, D-TX, committee chairman. De la Garza stayed in Washington for a House vote.



North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham chats with Texas Rep. Charles W. Stenholm during the hearing, which was held to gather public comment on issues that need to be addressed in the 1990 farm bill.

PINS AND NEEDLES



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Offer Good Through April 30, 1990

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Potato-Cheese Soup

Submitted by Ila Ford, Lexington

1 large potato, diced
1 small onion, diced
1/3 C. Velveeta cheese
2 C. whole milk
Salt and pepper to taste
1 Tbsp. butter (optional)

Cook potato and onion until very tender in smallest amount of water possible. Cut Velveeta cheese into small pieces and add milk. Simmer for 5 minutes (do not boil). Salt and pepper to taste. (Serves two).

Serving for 25:
3 qts. diced potatoes
1 qt. diced onion
1 loaf (3 lbs.) Velveeta cheese
1 1/2 to 2 gal. whole milk
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook potatoes and onions well. Continue as above for larger quantity.

Mrs. Ford says, "This soup is a real hit with our church family after the annual Christmas caroling!"

Would You Like To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: *Carolina Country,* P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611.

We pay $5 for published recipes and present each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards featuring a reprint of the published recipe.

Culinary SOS

If you have a recipe for "Can Do Bread," ne of our readers would appreciate your aring it with her. Mrs. Howard Byrd of Lin-olnton wrote to say she'd been unable to nd the recipe, which she thinks appeared *Carolina Country* in the late '60s. So far, 've haven't found it in back issues from that eriod. You can write to Mrs. Byrd at Rt. 4, ox 707, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

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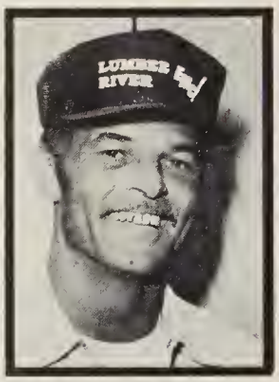


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Lumbee River EMC Lineman Wins Prize With Record Time

Ernest Chavis finished in first place in the 1989 Pole-Top Rescue Competition for North Carolina Co-op linemen.

Ernest Chavis, a first class lineman from Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Red Springs, posted the fastest time in winning the 1989 Statewide Pole-Top Rescue Competition for co-op linemen. Chavis turned in a record time of 1 minute, 48:78 seconds to beat out 26 fellow linemen and win the top prize of $500.

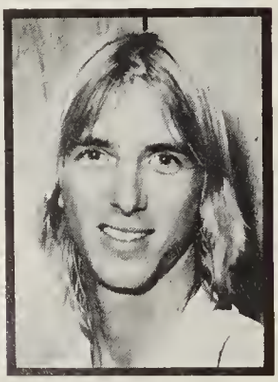


Chavis

The competition, sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, was held in Raleigh.



Smith



Quillen



Fleming



Coleman

—*Matt Vernon/Wake*



Riv Ezzell of Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation, Jacksonvill prepares to lower the "victim" to safety during the statewide pole-top resc competition for EMC linemen.

Chavis, who has been employed by Lumbee River EMC for eight y edged out defending champion Randy Smith, a crew chief from Union EMC, Monroe, who finished second with a time of 1:53.66.

Finishing behind the leaders were: Paul Quillen, an apprentice li man from Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City; Rocky Fleming, a firs class lineman and serviceman from French Broad EMC, Marshall and I Coleman, a line foreman from Brunswick EMC, Shallotte.

"This event is a great showcase for the talents and skills these lin men can draw on in an emergency," said Wayne D. Keller, executive v president of the statewide EMC organization.

The competition simulates a pole-top rescue mission in which th lineman must radio an emergency call from his truck, put on his climb gear and tool belt, climb a 35-foot pole, lower a 120-pound dummy to safety and perform life-saving procedures.

Linemen who failed to follow strict safety instructions were asse penalties on their time. Participants were judged on both speed and s

—*Randy Wheeless*

The contest was inaugurated in 1987 to
is co-op attention on the need for linemen to
prepared to respond quickly when an injury
urs. Plans call for the competition to be held
y two years.

Each lineman in the contest had won a local
petition before advancing to the finals. The
ers, listed by EMCs, were:

Albemarle EMC, Wayne Baker; Blue Ridge
, Jeff Benfield; Cape Hatteras EMC, Mike
; Central EMC, Frank Holder; Crescent
, Terry Wilson; Davidson EMC, Robert
ns; Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Dale
zard; Four County EMC, Jimmy Casteen.

Halifax EMC, Lester Bauer; Harkers Island
, Keith Moore; Haywood EMC, Steve Rog-
Jones-Onslow EMC, Riv Ezzell; Pee Dee
, Jake McGee; Piedmont EMC, John Luns-
; Pitt & Greene EMC, Tony Vandiford; Ran-
h EMC, Dale Lambert.

Roanoke EMC, Richard Williford; Ruther-
EMC, Charles Gibby; South River EMC,
ny Wolf; Surry-Yadkin EMC, Johnny Hiatt;
land EMC, Bobby O'Neal; Tri-County EMC,
Buford and Wake EMC, Charles (Odie)
ell.



Raleigh news media covered the competition, which was held at the headquarters building of North Carolina's statewide organization of electric co-ops. Tommy Greer, senior job training and safety specialist with the co-op organization, responds to questions from a WPTF-TV crew.

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To make "Pokey", the fuzzy bear shown here, you will need a piec wood 13″ x 16″ or a Busy Box lid of the same dimensions. To begin, se the wood and then apply a basecoat of blue-gray acrylic paint. Transfer pattern onto the wood and paint according to the directions.

To obtain SWEET MEMORIES OF FUZZY TALES, #P8424, send $10.25, including postage and handling. For a variety of handicraft proj you may want to try HANDICRAFT GRAB BAG, #CB17, (six different projects *not* including #P8424), $9.95.

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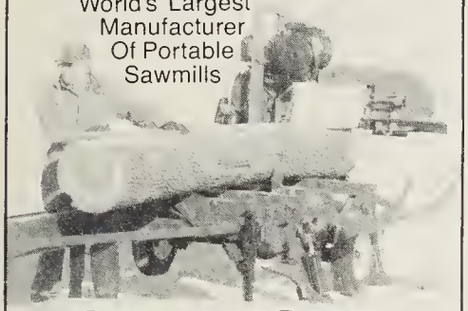
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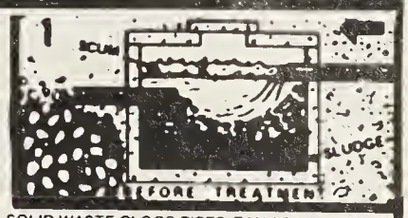
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In Evaluation Program

12 EMC Newsletters Honored

Consumer newsletters published by 12 North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) have been cited for outstanding achievement in a statewide evaluation program for the EMC publications.

The program was sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC)—the trade association for the state's 28 EMCs.

Newsletters that were honored each received an "Award of Excellence" presented by Wayne D. Keller, NCAEC's executive vice president, at a newsletter editing workshop in Raleigh.

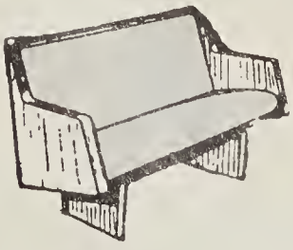
The newsletters were rated by a panel of three judges and awarded points for their coverage of EMC activities, the co-op's role in the community, reader appeal and clarity and forthrightness. Plaques went to all newsletters that met minimum established standards.

The EMCs receiving the citations were:

Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir—*The Enlightener*—Maggie Tilley, editor.
Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City—*The Communicator*—Frank L. Lloyd, editor.
Crescent EMC, Statesville—*The Crescent Conductor*—R. Maurice (Dusty) Rhodes, editor.
Davidson EMC, Lexington—*DEMC News*—John Jenkins, editor.
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro — *Along The Line*—Eddie Stocks, editor.
Four County EMC, Burgaw—*Member News*—Cathy Johnson, editor.
Haywood EMC, Waynesville—*EMC Power Lines*—Betty Boger, editor.
Randolph EMC, Asheboro—*Watts Working*—Dave Rowe, editor.
Roanoke EMC, Rich Square—*Roanoke Electric Flashes*—Sue S. Beal, editor.
Tideland EMC, Pantego—*Tideland Topics*—Louise Muse, editor.
Tri-County EMC, Dudley—*Tri-Co News*—J. Randall Adams, editor.
Wake EMC, Wake Forest—*The Lamplighter*—Matt Vernon, editor.

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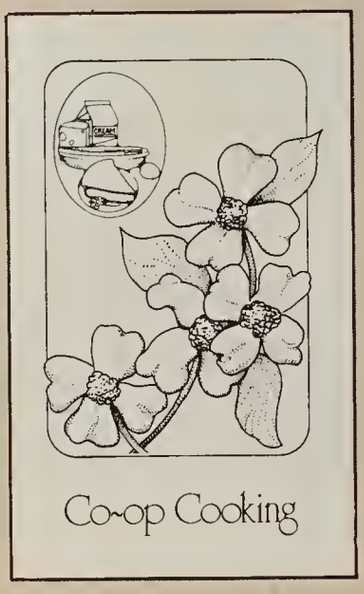
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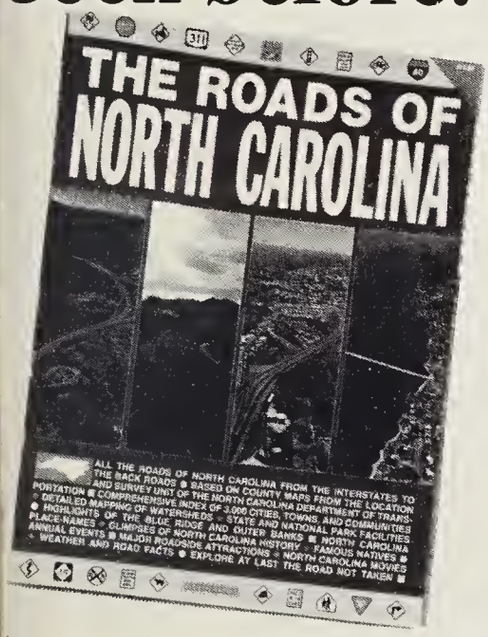
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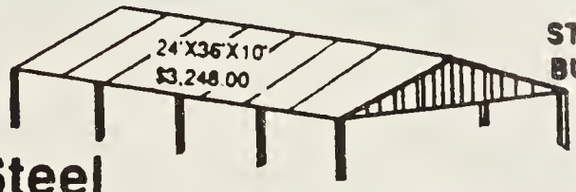
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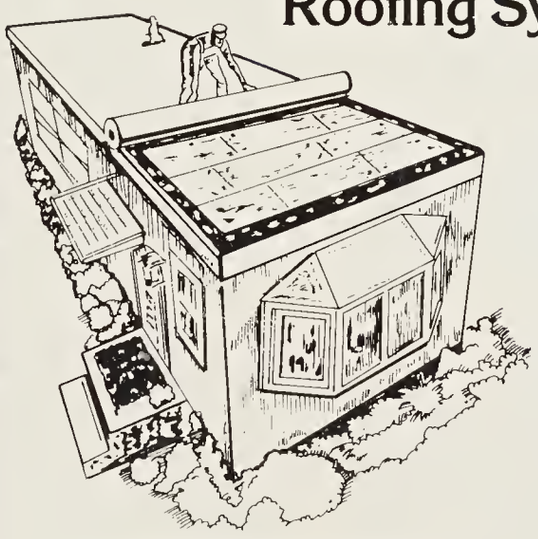
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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE



Santa Claus is a good advisor to gardeners. He goes around saying: "Ho . . . ho . . .ho."

During warm spells, you'll want to make a general clean-up of the landscape and gardening areas. Get the grounds presentable for the holiday season.

May your home be filled with ample good cheer during the holidays—happiness expressed with an abundance of such seasonal greenery as holly, cedar, pine, photinia and magnolia. And an abundance of cheerful berries from plants of holly, nandina and pyracantha.

Merry Christmas!

Curb The Urge To Prune

Wait until late winter to perform major surgery by way of heavy pruning. Severe pruning now, accompanied by a period of warm weather, could stimulate a flush of growth. Such tender growth may be killed by cold weather. Delay pruning until February.

Upon Planting Large-growing Shrubs

Use large-growing shrubs only at the corners of a building, at the borders of the yard or wherever a screening effect is desired. If such plants are used in the base or foundation planting, they will eventually hide the house, cut the view, restrict movement of light and air inside—or keep you busy pruning them to behave.

If you are not sure as to the size a shrub will grow, it is advisable to look around the neighborhood or visit a garden center to learn the growth habits.

Insect Control

The spraying of all deciduous trees and shrubs may be undertaken now. Use a winter-strength dormant oil. One application should kill overwintering insects that may be infesting your plants. Although dormant spraying may be delayed until later in the winter, weather conditions are often more agreeable for the task to be done now.

Poinsettias: How To Keep Them Fresh

A poinsettia pot wrapped in foil makes an attractive gift, but the plant will perform better if the foil wrap is removed. In addi-



tion to providing protection for the table or floor surface the pot sits on, the makes watering difficult.

Place the plant, and all, in a plastic lined basket, or a ceramic pot with drainage holes. O place the clay or plastic pot on a water resistant surface s as one end of a br hearth away from of the fireplace.

Give the poinse water when soil becomes dry. Just the pot from its co tainer and take it the sink. Water th oughly, and let dr

Winter Wateri

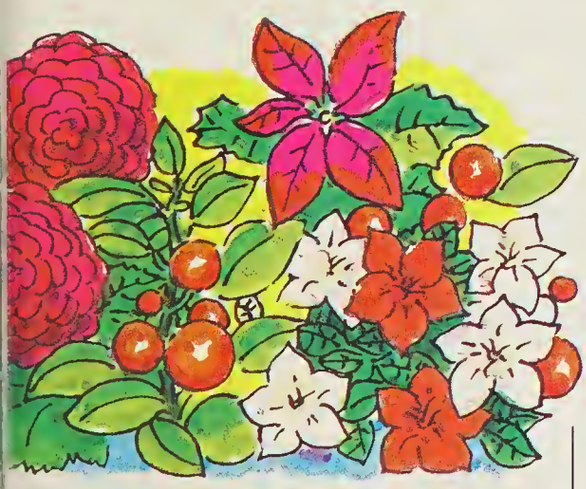
Check evergre to be certain they not suffering fron of moisture in th Broadleaf evergre subjected to blow winds will lose co siderable moistur through their lea This moisture mu be replaced by m ture taken up by root system. If th is dry, let water r slowly until area around the roots thoroughly moist

Flowering can need much wate otherwise buds r drop from the pla before opening.

A Checklist: Early Winter Chores

1. Clean up and burn all twigs and litter beneath pecan trees to prevent twig girder damage.
2. Work organic matter such as peat, leaves and compost into your garden.
3. Don't mow fescue or rye grass lawns if severe freezing temperatures are forecast the same night.
4. Study garden design books in order to make plans for landscape development in mid-winter to early spring.
5. Dig the planting hole if you have live Christmas tree; have the 'new home' all ready for moving tree outside. Don't leave live tree indoors over seven days.
6. Plant shade trees, so you'll enjoy some shade by the year 2000.
7. Set aside an evening to study garden plant and seed catalogs as an aid in planning your spring, summer and autumn gardens.
8. Check on summer bulbs that are in storage for winter; destroy any that show signs of decay.
9. Spray fruit trees with lime sulphur to kill any overwintering insects and diseases.
10. Keep a bird feeder filled to bring birds to your winter garden scene.
11. Check houseplants for insects.
12. Keep firewood stored outside in a convenient spot. When stockpiled indoors, the wood can introduce insects to your home.

By Hank Smith



Help Your Christmas Plants Thrive Into The New Year

Christmas begonia — Too little moisture ıorten life of the blooms. Keep in a cool at night; sunny window during the day.

Azalea — Blossoms will last longer if the is kept in a cool room and the pot sits in a r which always contains water.

erusalem cherry — Place in bright light g the day and a cool room at night. These sential.

Cyclamen —Always water around the of the pot. Keep soil moist while in flower, ves will yellow.

Poinsettia — Keep out of drafts. Tempera- below 60°F or above 75°F will shorten life oms. Keep soil moist at all times.

ı Planting ransplanting

en planting or lanting trees, s or hardy pe- ds, dig the plant- le twice as wide root ball.

ou're planting ner-grown s, mix a heaping of fine pine ıulch with the ıy used in filling l the root-ball. id-burlap plants l have no ma- ıdded to the



Look Ahead To Vegetables

It may be difficult to realize, but it will soon be time to start your 1990 vegetable garden. In a few short weeks, you can plant garden peas, sugar snap peas, radishes, rutabagas, turnips and onion sets.

Seed of lettuce and cabbage can be started indoors. They will be ready for transferring outdoors in early- to mid-February.

Trees Near Buildings

Don't make the mistake of planting trees too close to a building. Even such small-scale trees as dogwood, redbud, flowering crabapple and crepe myrtle trained as a tree should be planted at least 12 to 15 feet away from the foundation.

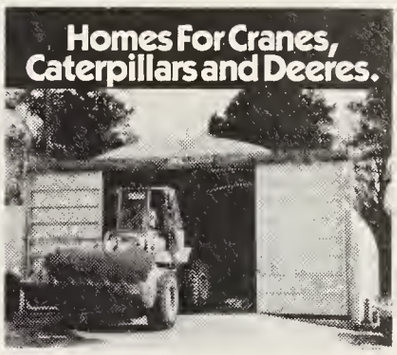
Larger trees, such as oak, maple, sweet gum, Southern magnolia and American holly should be no closer than 30 feet. Although small at planting time, a tree can grow and mature to become a problem when located too near a structure.

A deciduous tree, planted about 30 feet from the western exposure of a building, will become an aid in summer air conditioning by casting shade on the "hot wall."

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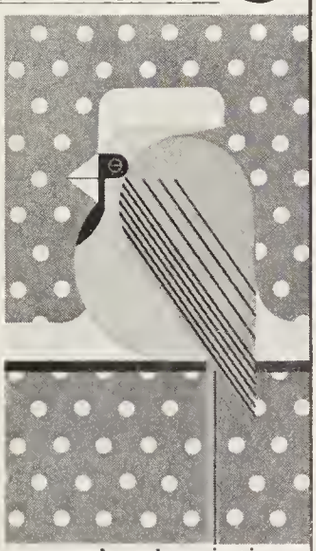
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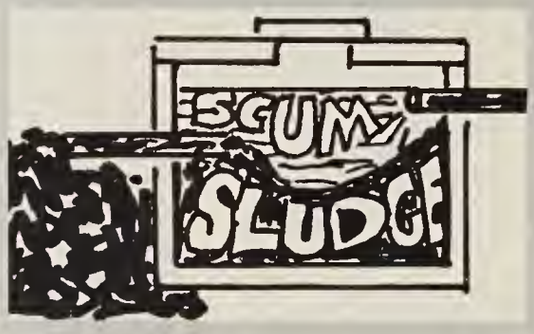


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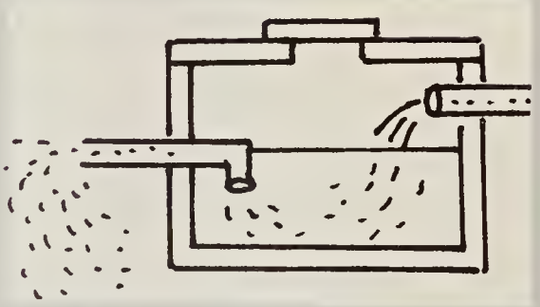
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The new standards, set as part of a 1987 gy conservation law, will raise the average of the most common refrigerators to $559 993 models from $513 for 1990 models, offi- said.

But the energy-efficient refrigerators will ce the average household's electric bill by t $20 a year, meaning consumers will ip the additional cost of the new refrigera- within three years, officials said.

Overall, the new standards are expected to ce the cost of owning and operating a erator by $155 over the lifetime of the ance.

The DOE said the new standards are cted to save 452 billion kilowatt hours of ricity between 1993 and 2015. They also ut pollution emitted by power plants, ding a 9.8 million decrease in emissions of n dioxide.

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Revamped Tax Return Offers Pleasant Surprise

When North Carolinians get their 1989 state income tax blanks and instructions, they'll experience several pleasant surprises as they study the requirements that the N. C. Department of Revenue has worked out as a result of legislation enacted last August.

Under the new law—"An Act to Enhance the Simplicity and Fairness of the State Income Tax System"—the form you'll be filing by next April 15 is vastly different from those used in the past. We want to look at the important differences from the previous forms.

The North Carolina Individual Income Tax Return is still numbered Form D-400, and you'll still be sticking your pre-addressed label in the same place. If yours is a joint return, you and your spouse can still decide whether you want to contribute a dollar each to political parties.

You still sign at the bottom, along with your paid preparer if you use one, and you still have spaces for paying tax due, for receiving a refund and for applying any refund you may have to next year's estimated tax. You can still mark some of your refund for the Endangered Wildlife Fund or the relatively new Candidates Financing Fund.

But the number of changes are much more important to most taxpayers than the items that remain the same. For example: would you believe that you can file a return that has only two pages? You can, indeed.

Most North Carolinians undoubtedly complete their federal tax return, the not-very-simple Form 1040 of the Internal Revenue Service, before they ever tackle the state return. This is no longer an option.

You cannot fill in your D-400 for 1989 without first completing your federal form. If you file as single, married filing jointly, head of household or widow or widower, you are required to check the same square on the state return that you did on the federal. Moving down the page just a couple of lines, you are also required to list your taxable income from your federal return in the identical amount you use on the state return. If you file a joint federal return, you must file a joint state return. And you and your spouse are required to enter your Social Security numbers, just as you have for several decades.

With your taxable income established, and the North Carolina rate clearly shown on the D-400, what else is different?

The chart at right, which is part of the instructions, shows how much income you must have to even file the North Carolina D-400.

From this table, you may conclude that the North Carolina standard deduction is increased under the new law. You're right. The deduction is now $3,000 for single returns, $5,000 for married joint returns, $2,500 for married filing separately, $4,400 for head of household and $5,000 for qualifying widow or widower.

You also add this to the itemized deductions or the standard deduction from your federal tax form for a new total. (The federal standard deduction has been more generous than North Carolina's for several years.)

For people 65 and over, and those legally blind, there is an additional state standard deduction. The dollar amount for one filer 65 or blind is $750 single, $600 for married filing jointly, $600 for married filing separately, $750 for head of household and $600 qualifying widow or widower.

These amounts are for one person. But suppose that a married couple, filing a joint return, were both 65 and over. Each would qualify for the additional $600. Since their standard deduction listed above is $5,000, e could add another $600 to make their total standard deduction $6,200. The same princ applies for blind persons.

For many North Carolina taxpayers, th provisions are going to make a major differe in the next state income tax return they file

Income Levels Required To File Form D-400

Filing Status	Return Required If Gross Income Exceeds:
Single	$ 5,000
Single (65 or over)	$ 5,750
Married Filing Joint Return	$ 9,000
Married Filing Joint Return One 65 or over	$ 9,600
Married Filing Joint Return Both 65 or over	$10,200
Married Filing Separate Return	$ 2,000
Head of Household	$ 6,400
Head of Household (65 or over)	$ 7,150
Qualifying Widow(er) with dependent child	$ 7,000
Qualifying Widow(er) (65 or over)	$ 7,600

But there are still more changes. We mentioned that you are required ter the taxable income from your federal tax return. But you can a few deductions from even that amount. North Carolina, for exam- as ruled Social Security income completely exempt from state tax. Some folks filing federal returns will have to pay federal taxes on part ir Social Security payments. There is a space to deduct this income your D-400. In addition, the 1989 General Assembly session has ed that certain exemptions will apply to annuitants receiving retire- pay in North Carolina.

A space on the second page of the D-400 provides state, local and fed- etirees an exemption of $4,000, or the actual amount paid if it's less 4,000. Another line allows up to $2,000 (or amount paid if less than 0) for private business retirees.

These amounts are deductible from the stipulated amount on the al return. This will also make a material difference to all retirees in Carolina.

n years past, Tar Heels paid at several different tax rates, ranging up to imum of 7 percent. This is also simplified and streamlined for 1989.

A single filer will pay 6 percent on taxable income up to $12,750 and cent above that figure.

A head of household will pay 6 percent on taxable income up to 00 and 7 percent above that.

A married couple filing jointly will pay 6 percent on taxable income up to $21,250 and 7 percent above that. The same applies to a qualified widow or widower.

A married couple filing separately will pay 6 percent of taxable income under $10,625 and 7 percent above that amount.

The simple two-page Form D-400 can suffice but some circumstances will require more forms.

There is a Schedule A that may be filed for tax credits. These could be for income tax paid to another state, credit for child and dependent care expenses and for North Carolina dividends. So certain folks will have to file more than two pages to be legal.

The new tax system, which was given its first push by Sen. Dennis Jay Winner of Asheville in 1988, was designed to be "revenue neutral," meaning it is expected to generate the same amount of revenue as did the previous system. Some opponents said the change was a tax increase, but backers said the law will take about 700,000 low-income North Carolinians off the income tax rolls completely.

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By Owen Bis



"Cleaning Up Hugo's Me

We don't ordinarily use "cute kid" phot that are submitted by our readers, but we're making an exception for this candid shot of Colby Lowry, 2, and Billy Joe Lowry, 6, of Mt Airy.

The boys said they were "Cleaning up Hugo's mess" when their aunt, Mary Sue Da son, snapped the shot.

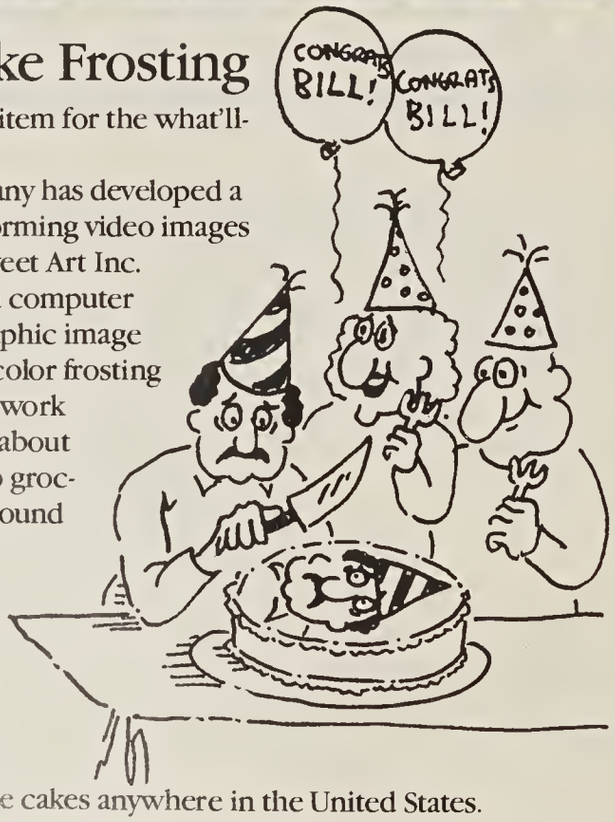
Mrs. Dawson said the photo was taken few days after Hurricane Hugo hit the Mt. Ai area.

"I was visiting the family when we look out the window and saw them (the boys) p ing their wagon through the yard. The next thing we knew, there they were, working av with tools and hats."

The little "repairmen" are the sons of Randy and Vyron Lowry.

The Lowrys and the Dawsons are serve Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporat Dobson.

High Tech Cake Frosting



Here's an intriguing item for the what'll-they-think-of-next? file:

A Kansas City company has developed a system for literally transforming video images into icing on the cake. Sweet Art Inc. uses a video camera and a computer digitizer to lift a photographic image and reproduce it in four-color frosting They've made the system work effectively enough to sell about 50 of the $20,000 units to grocery stores and bakeries around the world.

The company is now offering the services of a Sweet Art Network, a telecommunications system that will transfer images via modem so customers can personalize cakes anywhere in the United States.

Marie Carlo, owner of a bakery on Staten Island, NY, said her system has proven to be quite a hit: cake sales have doubled since she installed the new equipment. She charges $20 for the frosted image in addition to the usual charge for the cake.

The only drawback, she added, is that sometimes people don't want to cut into a familiar face.

North Carolina Writer's Phras Becomes A Campaign Them

Did you know that President Bush's familiar "thousand points of light" campaign theme was originally penned by a North Carolina writer?

Syndicated columnist Mike Royko broke this story several months ago, poin ing out that the phrase appeared in modi fied form in two Thomas Wolfe novels.

In *You Can't Go Home Again,* the Asheville native described America this way (italics added): "It's your pasture now, and it's not so bad—only three thou sand miles from east to west, only two thousand miles from north to south—but all between, where *ten thousand points light* prick out the cities, towns and villages, there, seeker, you will find us burning in the night." In his *The Web And The Rock,* Wolfe wrote: "And instantly he would see the town below now, coiling i a thousand fumes of homely smoke, now winking into *a thousand points of friendly light....*"

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